



Introduction to Criminal Justice

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What defines the:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM



- The Criminal Justice System is composed of three components:
 - Law enforcement agencies
 - Courts
 - Corrections – prison, probation, parole




Law Enforcement Agencies:

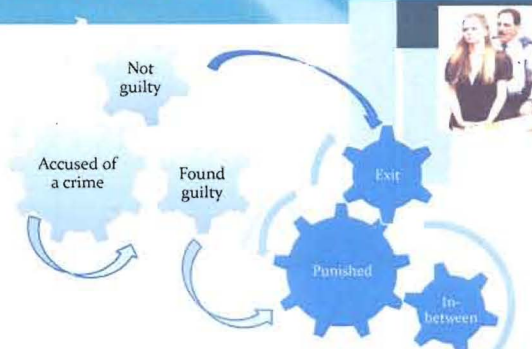
- Local
- State
- Federal

independent but interdependent

- ✓ Police
- ✓ Courts
- ✓ Corrections




Process of flow



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graph TD
    A[Accused of a crime] --> B[Not guilty]
    A --> C[Found guilty]
    C --> D[Punished]
    D --> E[Exit]
    D --> F[In-between]
    F --> D
    E --> G[ ]
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- The formal criminal justice process
 - Functions as an assembly-line –
 - >>>at times a bottleneck assembly line
- The informal criminal justice process



Discretion

Figure 1.2 Discretion in the Criminal Justice System
Criminal justice officials must make decisions every day concerning their duties. The officials listed below, whether they operate on a local, state, or federal level, rely heavily on discretion when meeting the following responsibilities.

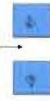
Police <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Enforce laws ✓ Investigate specific crimes ✓ Search people or buildings ✓ Arrest or detain people 	Judges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Set conditions for pretrial release ✓ Accept pleas ✓ Dismiss charges ✓ Impose sentences
Prosecutors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ File charges against suspects brought to them by the police ✓ Drop cases ✓ Reduce charges 	Correctional Officials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Assign convicts to prison or jail ✓ Punish prisoners who misbehave ✓ Reward prisoners who behave well

FEDERALISM

Government powers are shared by national (federal) government and the state government

Large-scale problems and umbrella rules

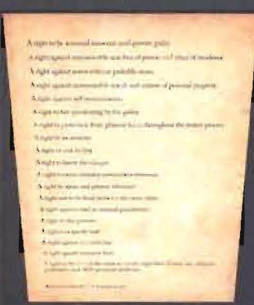
Federal laws and individual laws, statutes, and traditions



Finding the right balance




The U.S. Constitution

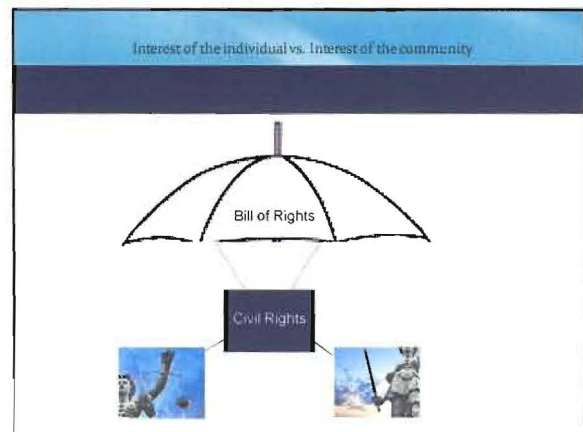
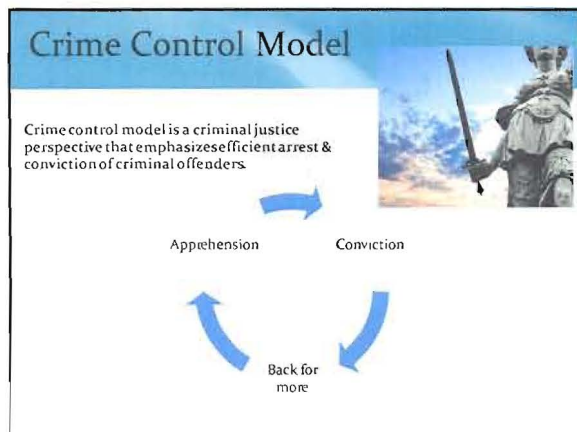


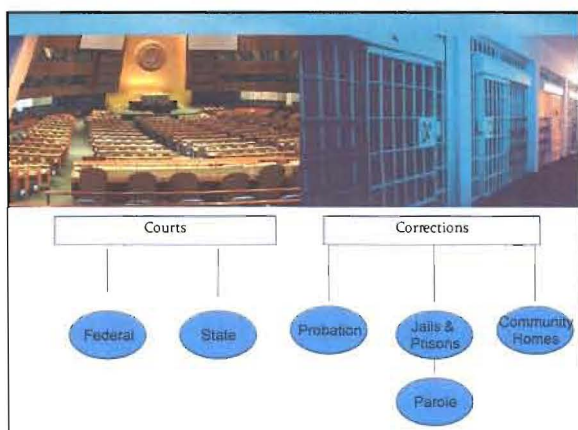
Due Process Model

The U.S. Constitution requires the processing criminal justice cases be conducted with fairness and equity; this requirement is referred to as due process, which, simply put, means procedural fairness.



Due process recognizes the individual rights of criminal defendants facing prosecution by a state or the federal government.





Crimes

- How are acts defined as a crime?

Consensus Model vs. Conflict Model

- The Consensus Model**
 - Assumes that a diverse group of people have similar morals and share an ideal of what is "right" and "wrong."
 - Crime are acts that violate this shared value system and are deemed harmful to society.

Consensus Model vs. Conflict Model

- The Conflict Model**
 - Assumes that society is so diverse that members **do not share moral attitudes**.
 - The most politically powerful members of society have the most influence on criminal law and impose their value system on the community.

Crime Defined

- Any action punishable under criminal statutes – an act that is considered to be a form of deviance.
 - What is deviance – behavior that is recognized as violating rules and norms of society.

Laws

Violation of formal rules

Deviance

Violation of informal rules-customs and habits

Underage Drinking Laws

- Laws – Society determines how behaviors are criminalized; perception of morality through moral values
 - Driving and drinking laws
www.youtube.com/watch?v=ddxtACUWYtc
 - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q_CWF55S9Cw&feature=relmfu
 - Tobacco laws
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DSpXDhg_P8g

Gun Laws

On June 26, 2008, the Supreme Court made a landmark ruling upholding the right of individuals to bear arms for hunting and for self-defense.

The NRA argues that the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees individuals the right to own and carry guns. They are concerned that federal regulations will continue to increase until owning a handgun will be difficult to achieve, infringing on their Constitutional rights. They also argue that if law-abiding citizens have guns, they are safer from criminals, bringing crime rates down.



The Brady Center, on the other hand, argues that the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution does not guarantee individuals the right to own and carry guns. Further, they argue that when more people have guns, deaths and injuries from guns increase.



http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/45819570/ns/us_news-life/t/new-laws-toughen-rules-abortion-immigrants-voters/#.UDIUgXYfpc

ABOUT 40,000 NEW STATE LAWS TO TAKE EFFECT AT THE START OF THE NEW YEAR

CRIMES LISTED

- Violent crimes.....
 - Property crimes.....
 - Public order crimes....
 - White collar-crimes...
 - Organized crime.....
 - High-tech crime.....
- Assault
 - Burglary
 - Public drunkenness
 - Prostitution
 - Illicit drug use
 - Theft of proprietary data
 - Sabotage
 - Fraud
 - Embezzlement



An Integrated Definition of Crime

- ☐ Crime is an action that is punishable under criminal law as defined by a society.
- ☐ Considered an offense against society as a whole, not against the victim.
- ☐ Punishable by statutorily determined sanctions that bring about a loss of personal freedom.

